

II. Listing of the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A prosthetic device for longitudinal insertion into an intervertebral space defined between a pair of spondylosed vertebrae, comprising:
 - a first component, comprising:
 - a first flange longitudinally extending along a first bearing surface; and
 - a projection extending from a first articular surface, the projection being offset in an anterior direction relative to a first center point of the first articular surface; and
 - a second component adapted to be engaged with the first component, comprising:
 - a second flange longitudinally extending along a second bearing surface, the second flange being substantially aligned with the first flange upon engagement of the second component with the first component; and
 - a recess formed in a second articular surface, the recess being offset in a posterior direction relative to a second center point of the second articular surface;wherein the projection and the recess engage one another to provide for articulating motion between the first and second components, and
 - wherein engagement of the projection and the recess results in the second component being offset in the anterior direction relative to the first component ~~thereby accommodating a spondylosed relationship between a first vertebra and a second vertebra adjacent to the first vertebra.~~
2. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second flanges each comprise at least one hole therethrough.
3. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second bearing surfaces are each coated with a bone-growth promoting substance and wherein the first and second bearing surface are adapted to engage the first and second vertebrae, respectively.

4. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second flanges are each coated with a bone-growth promoting substance.

5. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second flanges each comprise a sharp portion for penetrating the first and second vertebrae, respectively.

6. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second components are formed of a cobalt-chrome-molybdenum metallic alloy.

7. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second components each comprise at least one notch formed longitudinally therein for receiving a surgical instrument.

8. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the projection is a convex portion and the recess is a concave portion.

9. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first component comprises an additional flange longitudinally extending along the first bearing surface.

10. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the second component comprises an additional flange longitudinally extending along the second bearing surface.

11. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first flange comprises a laterally-extending portion, the laterally-extending portion being substantially parallel with the first bearing surface.

12. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the second flange comprises a laterally-extending portion, the laterally-extending portion being substantially parallel with the second bearing surface.

13. (Currently Amended) A prosthetic device for insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising a first component having a means for longitudinally engaging a first vertebra during longitudinal insertion therein, and a second component having a means for longitudinally engaging a second vertebra during longitudinal insertion therein, wherein one of the first and second components comprises a projection and the other of the first and second components comprises a recess, the projection and recess being adapted to engage one another, and wherein at least one of the projection and the recess is offset relative to the first component or the second component such that when the projection and the recess are engaged with one another the first and second components are offset with respect to one another ~~to accommodate a spondylosed relationship between the first and second vertebrae.~~

14. (Previously Amended) The prosthetic device of claim 13 wherein the projection is offset in a first direction relative to the first component and the recess is offset relative to the second component in a second direction substantially opposite to the first direction.

15. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 13 wherein the first and second means for longitudinally engaging the first and second vertebrae, respectively, are longitudinally-extending flanges.

16. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 15 wherein the first component further comprises a first bearing surface in an opposed relation to a first articular surface, the first bearing surface being adapted to engage the first vertebra.

17. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 16 wherein the first flange extends along the first bearing surface.

18. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 16 wherein one of the projection or the recess is formed on the first articular surface.

19. (Previously Amended) The prosthetic device of claim 16 wherein the second component further comprises a second bearing surface in an opposed relation to a second articular surface, the second bearing surface being adapted to engage the second vertebra.

20. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 19 wherein the second flange extends along the second bearing surface.

21. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 19 wherein one of the projection or the recess is formed on the second articular surface.

22. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 15 wherein the first and second flanges each comprise at least one hole therethrough.

23. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 16 wherein the first bearing surface and the first flange are each coated with a bone-growth promoting substance.

24. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 19 wherein the second bearing surface and the second flange are each coated with a bone-growth promoting substance.

25. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 15 wherein the first and second flanges each comprise a sharp portion for penetrating the first and second vertebrae, respectively.

26. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 14 wherein the first and second components are formed of a cobalt-chrome-molybdenum metallic alloy.

27. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 14 wherein the first and second components each comprise at least one notch formed longitudinally therein for receiving a surgical instrument.

28. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 14 wherein the projection is a convex portion and the recess is a concave portion.

29. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 15 wherein the first component comprises an additional flange longitudinally extending along the first bearing surface.

30. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 15 wherein the second component comprises an additional flange longitudinally extending along the second bearing surface.

31-36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Amended) A method for treating spondylolisthesis from an anterior approach, comprising

providing a prosthetic device having a first articular component with an offset projection, and a second articular component with an offset recess adapted to engage with the offset projection such that the first articular component is offset relative to the second articular component to accommodate a spondylosed relationship, and

longitudinally inserting the first articular component into a disc space such that a portion of the first articular component engages a first vertebra, and

longitudinally inserting the second articular component into the disc space such that the offset projection and offset recess are engaged with one another and such that a portion of the second articular component engages a second vertebra, the second vertebra being adjacent to and in a spondylosed relationship with the first vertebra.

38. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 37 wherein the projection extends from a first surface of the first articular component, the projection being offset in a first direction relative to the first surface of the first articular component.

39. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 38 wherein the recess is formed in a second surface of the second articular component, the recess being offset in a second direction relative to the second surface of the second articular component, the second direction being substantially opposite the first direction.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein longitudinally inserting the first articular component and longitudinally inserting the second articular component occurs simultaneously.

41. (Previously presented) A prosthetic device for positioning within an intervertebral space between a first vertebra and a second vertebra, comprising:

a first component comprising:

a first engagement surface for securely engaging with the first vertebra, and

a first articular surface opposite the first engagement surface, the first articular surface having a projection extending therefrom, the projection being offset in a first direction relative to a first center point of the first component; and

a second component comprising:

a second engagement surface for securely engaging with the second vertebra, and

a second articular surface opposite the second engagement surface, the second articular surface including a recess, the recess being offset in a second direction relative to a second center point of the second component, the second direction being substantially opposite the first direction, the recess sized and shaped to be movably engaged with the projection of the first component;

wherein engagement of the projection and the recess results in the first center point of the first component being offset relative to the second center point of the second component such that the first and second components are offset with respect to one another.

42. (Previously presented) The prosthetic device of claim 41, wherein the first component includes a first anterior boundary and a first posterior boundary, and wherein the first direction is towards the first anterior boundary; and

wherein the second component includes a second anterior boundary and a second posterior boundary, and wherein the second direction is towards the second posterior boundary.

43. (Previously presented) The prosthetic device of claim 42, wherein the first engagement surface includes a first flange extending therefrom, the first flange extending along a first axis extending between the first anterior boundary and the first posterior boundary; and

wherein the second engagement surface includes a second flange extending therefrom, the second flange extending along a second axis extending between the second anterior boundary and the second posterior boundary;

wherein the first and second flanges extend substantially parallel to one another when the projection and recess are engaged in a neutral position.

44. (Previously presented) The prosthetic device of claim 42, wherein an anterior boundary of the projection is positioned adjacent to the first anterior boundary.